



wisconsin department of
children + families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room B200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Early Care and Education
Bureau of Early Care Regulation

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TO: Certified Family and In-Home Child Care Providers
Certified School-Age Programs
Family Child Care Center Licensees
Group Child Care Center Licensees
Day Camp Licensees

BECR MEMO 2011-05

FROM: Jill D. Chase, Director
Bureau of Early Care Regulation

RE: Information for providers on New Crib Standards
Requirement for Carbon Monoxide Detectors
Summer Safety

I would like to take this opportunity to share some information that applies to certified and licensed child care providers.

New Crib Standards

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) recently published new standards for cribs that will enhance safety. Beginning December 28, 2012 all cribs provided by a child care program must meet new federal safety standards. The new standards take effect for manufacturers, retailers, importers and distributors on June 28, 2011. The new standards apply to all full-size, non full-size cribs including wood, metal and stackable cribs. Portable cribs and playpens that have mesh or fabric sides are not subject to the new standards. Attached is an update from the Consumer Product Safety Commission on the new crib standards. Beginning December 28, 2012, licensing and certification staff will monitor programs for compliance with this requirement. Programs will be required to provide documentation that all wood, metal or stackable cribs comply with the new crib standards as described in the attached document. This documentation could consist of a certificate of compliance from the manufacturer or a label attached to the crib indicating that date of manufacture was June 28, 2011 or later. For more information please visit the CPSC website: www.cpsc.gov.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Homes

A new law took effect on February 1, 2011 that requires all one or two family dwellings to have a carbon monoxide detector in operating condition installed in the basement and on each level of the building excluding the attic and garage. If the carbon monoxide detector is wired to the building electrical system, the detector shall have a backup battery power supply. This law can be found in 2009 Wisconsin Act 158. The law applies to all regulated child care programs that are located in a one or two-family dwelling. This law will modify the certification rule DCF 202.08 (2) (am). DCF 250, Licensing Rules for Family Child Care Centers does not currently have a rule that

addresses a requirement for carbon monoxide detectors however one will be added in a future rule change. Licensing and certification staff will monitor programs located in a one or two family dwelling for compliance with this requirement under the rules requiring all programs to comply with applicable laws. The language in the rules will be modified to reflect this requirement.

Outdoor Safety

With the coming of warmer weather, children and caregivers are excited to get outside and play. Both the certification and the licensing rules require that children have outdoor play time daily unless there is inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as heavy rain or temperatures above 90° F. The enclosed Summer Weather Watch document provides information on the heat index and also safety tips for keeping children safe while playing outside.

Playgrounds and outdoor play equipment provide fun, fresh air and exercise. But they also can pose some safety hazards. Loose or missing parts on equipment, insufficient anchoring of play equipment, lack of appropriate playground surfacing and careless behavior by children are just a few of the hazards of playgrounds. Each year, more than 200,000 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms for playground-related injuries. Many of these injuries could have been prevented. You can make the playground a place that's entertaining and safe for the children in care by checking equipment for potential hazards and following some simple safety guidelines. The playground surface should be free of standing water and debris that could cause children to trip and fall, such as rocks, tree stumps, and tree roots. There should be no dangerous materials, like broken glass or twisted metal. Also, children are more likely to get hurt if they fall from taller pieces of equipment.

Adult Supervision While Playing Outdoors

Teaching children how to play safely is important. If they know the rules of the playground, they're less likely to get hurt. Making sure that adults are readily available to supervise can help prevent injuries by making sure children properly use playground equipment and don't engage in unsafe behavior around it. If an injury does occur, an adult can assist the child and administer any needed first aid right away. Children should always have adult supervision on the playground. Young children (and sometimes older ones) can't always gauge distances properly and aren't capable of foreseeing dangerous situations by themselves. Older children may test their limits on the playground, so it's important for an adult to be there to guide behaviors in order to prevent injuries. Check to make sure that play areas are designed to allow an adult to clearly see children while they're playing on all the equipment.

Transportation Safety

During the summer months, the interior of a vehicle can heat up rapidly, even on mild days when temperatures reach the 70s. According to a study published in the journal *Pediatrics* that looked at deaths of children in a hot vehicle over a 12 year period - 51% of the cases (228 children) were the result of children "forgotten" by caregivers; 30% (131 children) died when a child was playing in an unattended vehicle; 18% (80 children) died when a child was intentionally left in a vehicle by an adult and 4% (4 children) died in unknown circumstances. The administrative rules for all regulated programs (licensed and certified) prohibit a child from being left unattended in a vehicle. Programs should also take care to make sure that the doors to a vehicle are locked when not in use and that children do not have access to keys or remote entry devices. If a child is missing, adults should check any vehicles first, including the trunk. Teach children that vehicles are not to be used as a play area.